



Department of Homeland Security Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 24 September 2003

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



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www.whitehouse.gov/homeland

Daily Overview

- WKMG TV reports U.S. Secret Service agents believe there is a new, more sophisticated variation of the "Nigerian 419 Advance Fee" scam targeting Americans who sell items over the Internet. (See item [6](#))
- Reuters reports al Qaeda and its associates are increasingly turning to counterfeiting and credit card fraud for funds as the war on terrorism squeezes their traditional sources of finance. (See item [7](#))
- CNN reports Pentagon officials have announced that an Air Force enlisted man, who was a translator at the U.S. Navy base in Guantanamo Bay, has been charged with espionage and aiding the enemy. (See item [24](#))

DHS/IAIP Update *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: Elevated, Cyber: Elevated

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://esisac.com>]

1. *September 23, CBS News* — **Post-Isabel frustration grows.** As frustration grows for people still without electricity or drinking water because of Hurricane Isabel, officials are urging patience and reminding victims of the sheer size of the task facing repair crews. **According to a news correspondent, many people in eastern North Carolina are getting desperate for power, running water, a warm shower, a warm meal and specifics like baby formula,**

diapers, and prescription medicine. With no power and no running water, many residents of North Carolina have been bathing in the bay which empties into Albemarle Sound. **"People are advised not to swim, and not to go bathing, in the bay,"** said Chowan County, NC, spokesperson Peter Rasko. "A lot of people have been taking their evening baths in Eden Bay and the Sound. Please don't do that." **Rasko says Hurricane Isabel damaged the town's sewage treatment plant, and raw sewage is flowing into the bay.** At least 36 deaths have been blamed on the storm, 21 of them in Virginia.

Source: <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2003/09/01/national/main570994.shtml>

2. *September 23, Reuters* — **Entergy's Louisiana River Bend nuke shut after trip.** Entergy Corp.'s 936 megawatt River Bend nuclear unit in Louisiana was shut late Monday, September 22, after an automatic reactor scram, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) said Tuesday, September 23, in its event notification report. **The NRC said the scram occurred while performing main turbine control valve testing.** The unit, in St. Francisville, LA, about 24 miles north-northwest of Baton Rouge, remained shut early Tuesday after operating at full power on Monday, according to a separate plant status report.

Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/rm/030923/utilities_entergy_riverbend_1.html

3. *September 21, Reuters* — **Moon brings novel green power to Arctic homes.** Homes on the Arctic tip of Norway started getting power from the moon on Saturday, September 20, via a unique subsea power station driven by the rise and fall of the tide. A tidal current in a sea channel near the town of Hammerfest, caused by the gravitational tug of the moon on the earth, started turning the 33-foot blades of a turbine bolted to the seabed to generate electricity for the local grid. The prototype looks like an underwater windmill and is expected to generate about 700,000 kilowatt hours of non-polluting energy a year, or enough to light and heat about 30 homes. **"This is the first time in the world that electricity from a tidal current has been fed into a power grid,"** said Harald Johansen, managing director of Hammerfest Stroem which has led the project.

Source: http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&cid=570&ncid=753&e=7&u=/nm/20030921/sc_nm/environment_energy_moon_dc

4. *September 19, EE Times* — **Power grid could benefit from nanotechnology.** At a symposium examining the role of nanotechnology in the future of energy production, distribution and consumption, Ted Marston, chief technology officer for the Electric Power Research Institute, called for a total revision of the continental power grid based on a number of sweeping changes. Marston said that the transformations would benefit from nanotechnology. **He speculated that the major role of nanotechnology might be in new materials, for example in catalysts for energy generation or emissions scrubbing, membranes for fuel cells or huge storage capacitors, or new materials for strong, light-weight transmission lines and new kinds of lighting.** Suggested ways in which the nanotechnology would help include: (1) the transmission infrastructure – some 275,000 miles of high-voltage transmission lines, 90,000 substations and their sensors, switches, circuit breakers and transformers–had to be brought into the digital age, and (2) Marston said that transmission and communications infrastructure had to be integrated to prevent the communications failures that seem to have led to the recent blackout, but also to permit load and supply information to flow freely through the grid.

Source: <http://www.techweb.com/wire/story/TWB20030919S0009>

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Chemical Sector

Nothing to report.

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

5. *September 23, SolarAccess.com* — **U.S. Air Force tests fuel cell efficiency. Thirty military installations, including Robins Air Force Base in Georgia, have been selected worldwide as test sites for fuel cell systems,** which generate electricity by combining hydrogen and oxygen, producing water as its by-product. Carl Perazzola, advanced alternative power technology transition section chief, said turning to alternative fuel sources is a way the U.S. can preserve its fossil fuel resources. "Between 60 and 80 percent of our bases have natural compressed gas flowing through the base for heating and cooling loads," Perazzola said. "So, we began looking at it as an alternative fuel source." "If the system proves to be reliable, it may become more than an alternative fuel source," said Colonel David Nakayama, Support Equipment and Vehicle Management Directorate director, "it may become the fuel source norm." "We're very fortunate to have the first fuel cell beta test site at Robins," Nakayama said. **"Fuel is one of the most difficult things to move in any conflict, in any campaign. If we can solve that, we've not only solved a great deal by reducing the logistical footprint of our deployed troops, but we've changed how we defend American interests around the world."**

Source: <http://www.solaraccess.com/news/story?storyid=5154>

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Banking and Finance Sector

6. *September 23, WKMG TV (FL)* — **New 'Nigerian' Internet scam targeting Americans.** Agents at the U.S. Secret Service office in Orlando, FL, believe a WKMG TV Problem Solvers investigation has uncovered a new, more sophisticated variation of the so-called "Nigerian 419 Advance Fee" scam targeting Americans who sell items over the Internet. **The new variation of the "Nigerian" scam involves authentic-looking cashier's checks that are issued for high-priced items.** "We are talking about very sophisticated criminals," bank security expert Laz Claro said. "These people are very well educated, these people know our system. They know our economy and they know the different types of financial instruments that can be purchased."

Source: <http://www.local6.com/technology/2503937/detail.html>

7. *September 22, Reuters* — **Al Qaeda turns to crime due to cash crunch. Al Qaeda and its associates are increasingly turning to counterfeiting and credit card fraud for funds as the war on terrorism squeezes their traditional sources of finance, officials and experts say.** The very success of the global crackdown has made tracking extremists even more difficult, as

al Qaeda operatives shun a global financial system more tightly regulated after the September 11, 2001, attacks on U.S. landmarks, they warn. "There is a criminalization, at local and regional level, of terrorism's money, with the cloning of credit cards, counterfeiting, the trafficking of precious and semi-precious stones," said Roland Jacquard, president of the Paris-based International Terrorism Observatory. **French probes have shown al Qaeda operatives can rake in up to 15,000 euros (\$17,000) a month in credit card fraud, which is prevalent in Europe and the Gulf.** Germany's Finance Ministry warned in an August report that "new trends have emerged in the financing of terrorism," pointing to the use of "underground banking", non-government organizations and charities to collect funds. The Paris-based Financial Action Task Force (FATF), whose guidelines have set the international standard for fighting terrorist financing, says the abuse of charities is one of its most pressing concerns.

Source: <http://in.news.yahoo.com/030922/137/27xs5.html>

8. *September 22, MSNBC* — **Lenders miss most ID theft.** ID theft has grown so far, so fast, because financial institutions and other lenders have missed it. **A massive study of 200 million new credit card, checking account and cell phone accounts opened during 2001 shows that seven out of eight identity thefts are mis-categorized as simple credit losses by lenders.** The problem is that to lenders, most identity theft cases look simply like unpaid bills. It's not until months later, when the identity theft victim discovers the problem and calls to complain, that the lender finds out fraud is involved — and then, the money has already been written off as a credit loss. That's one reason financial institutions haven't reacted more quickly to the identity theft crisis; they just didn't see it. Institutions that participated in the study had attributed \$85 million in losses to ID fraud in 2001. The study put ID-theft losses at \$1.07 billion that year. **The study revealed incredibly high rates of identity fraud in certain segments of credit granting — with instant credit grantors being the most susceptible to ID fraud. The study also found that ID thieves have no trouble getting real social security numbers. A full 97 percent of incidents involved a legitimate Social Security Number.**

Source: <http://www.msnbc.com/news/970182.asp?0si=->

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Transportation Sector

9. *September 23, Associated Press* — **U.S. thinks EU will share passenger data.** The U.S. is confident it can reach a deal by the end of the year with the European Union on the use of personal information about EU airline passengers to prevent terrorists from entering the United States. **Homeland Security undersecretary Asa Hutchinson said Tuesday the United States recognized "legitimately expressed" European concerns about privacy protection which have held up an agreement for months.** "We are looking for a practical solution," Hutchinson told reporters, one day after high-level talks at EU headquarters. Still, both sides need to find a compromise on how extensive the sharing of information should be. **Under an interim agreement, U.S. authorities are already receiving information about airline passengers. Hutchinson said some suspicious passengers who could have terrorist links had already been stopped under the current system. He refused to elaborate.** In the wake of the September 11, 2001, terror attacks, the United States approved a law requiring all U.S.-bound flights from Europe to submit passenger data. That information is then compared to a U.S. law

enforcement database for any suspected terrorists or wanted people.

Source: http://www.boston.com/business/articles/2003/09/23/us_thinks_eu_will_share_passenger_data/

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

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Agriculture Sector

10. *September 23, United Press International* — **Pumpkin crop impacted by virus. A virus that attacks pumpkins in their formative stage has hit the Illinois crop hard.** Tom Feltes, manager of Sonny Farm Acres, said the mosaic virus is responsible, a plant illness that affected areas of northeastern Illinois especially hard this year. **While many farmers were unaffected, others lost 30 to 80 percent of their crops, said Mohammad Babadoost, assistant professor of crop science at the University of Illinois.** Feltes estimates his loss was closer to 80 percent. So like other affected growers in the area, he had to turn elsewhere, including Wisconsin and Pennsylvania. According to Babadoost, the mosaic virus is a common affliction that strikes crops every year around August. It usually is spread from plant to plant by aphids.

Source: <http://washingtontimes.com/upi-breaking/20030923-083922-1388.r.htm>

11. *September 23, Kansas State University* — **Livestock health monitoring.** In the near future, American livestock producers will likely need to identify and track every animal they send to market, say animal health experts at Kansas State University. **A veterinary telemedicine research and development project entering its second stage at Kansas State University is attempting to create the infrastructure to monitor the health of cattle remotely, and if the researchers are successful, the system would give livestock producers and veterinarians heads-up to emerging disease.** The telemedicine system will gather health data for an animal, store it locally so it can be pulled onto a handheld PDA-type device, which gives a coarse health analysis. Next, this data can be uploaded onto a personal computer at the ranch or feedlot for more analysis that could include herd records, weather data, or global information systems data, in order to detect worrisome health patterns in the herd. Finally, via an Internet connection, a synopsis of ranch herd data would go to local veterinarians, creating a kind of regional animal health picture. Successfully developing a veterinary telemedicine system capable of monitoring health information for the U.S. livestock herd provides a national security benefit, too. With it in place, veterinarians would have early warning of disease.

Source: http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2003-09/ksu-lhs092303.php

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Food Sector

Nothing to report.

Water Sector

12. *September 23, El Paso Times* — **Protecting water supply. Concerns for public safety were foremost on Las Cruces, TX, water officials' minds when the utility dumped 2 million gallons of water from a city water tank exposed to unknown dangers after vandals broke into it September 7.** "Right after September 11, we did some upgrades to our security, particularly at our remote sites," Water Resources Administrator, Gilbert Morales said. The incident earlier this month tested how well the water system's security features worked. **"Our system worked very well," Morales said. "There were a couple of areas that we found where our system could have been better, but this helped us identify those shortcomings and will help us respond more quickly in the future."** When officials arrived after the alarm was triggered September 7, they found the front gate's lock cut and the pump house door's lock tampered with. **The vandals apparently climbed the cage that surrounds a ladder used to access the top of the tank, and once at the top, they cut the lock to the door above the water. It was not known whether anything was dumped into the water. Tests for various substances were negative.** The tank was flushed, refilled, and put back into service September 8. Other tanks were lined up to supply users who would normally draw from the offline tank.
Source: http://www.borderlandnews.com/stories/borderland/20030923-24_788.shtml
13. *September 21, Agence France Presse* — **Water shortage in Middle East. The water shortage problem is close to crisis levels in most countries of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, a senior World Bank official warned.** "Fresh water availability is falling to crisis levels in MENA countries," said Jean-Louis Sarbib, senior vice president of the World Bank. **Annual per capita fresh water availability in MENA countries is about 1,200 cubic meters compared with a world average of about 7,000 to 7,500 cubic meters, according to Sarbib.** He said the figure for Yemen is about 500 cubic meters, almost half the water poverty line of 1,000 cubic meters. Sarbib said nearly 70 percent of municipal water in cities like Amman, Jordan goes unaccounted for, while Egypt recovers only two percent of its irrigation costs. **Jordan's Minister of Water and Irrigation Hazim el-Naser said the problem lies in the fact that many countries in the region have "no long-term vision" regarding the water issue. Although the MENA region accounts for five percent of the world population, it has only one percent of accessible fresh water worldwide, according to the World Bank.** The World Bank has made the issue of scarce water resources one of its millennium development goals.
Source: http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&u=/afp/20030921/wl_mideast_afp/worldbank_mena_water_030921225519

Public Health Sector

14. *September 23, Atlanta Journal Constitution* — **Nations use CDC brand to reform health agencies. Many of the world's nations are transforming their public health agencies in the wake of last spring's outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and in**

preparation for other new diseases and the threat of bioterrorism. Several are looking at modeling, even naming the agencies after the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The European Union's 15 nations are planning a European Center for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC). Canada's top health official has visited the CDC for tips on revamping that country's system of tracking and attacking disease. Hong Kong is considering a CDC-like organization. China renamed its Chinese Academy of Preventive Medicine the China-CDC. And the World Health Organization may start training disease detectives in a program based on the CDC's 52-year-old Epidemic Intelligence Service. **Most countries looking at the CDC model already have public health networks. But many nations lack a centralized response system and experts trained in public health to coordinate actions in a crisis.**

Source: <http://www.ajc.com/news/content/news/0903/23cdcbrand.html?urlac=n&urvf=10643350632890.007589179300506843>

15. *September 23, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention* — **CDC funds study of CA-MRSA. Four universities will receive grants from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to conduct research into community-associated methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (CA-MRSA). Approximately \$3 million will be distributed to the institutions over the next three years to examine such issues as the bacteria's genetic characteristics, characteristics of patients' illnesses and outcomes, and the mechanisms of infection and disease.** The grant recipients will assemble groups of investigators with the expertise to address the key clinical and public health questions surrounding the spread of the disease. They will collect data to help define risk factors for infection and methods of treatment. "CDC is concerned about the increasing reports of community-associated MRSA. Controlling the spread of MRSA is a high priority in our efforts to prevent antimicrobial resistance. We are committed to supporting new applied research to the study of MRSA in the community, and we are excited to be able to fund these grants," said CDC Director Dr. Julie Gerberding.

Source: <http://www.cdc.gov/od/oc/media/pressrel/r030923.htm>

16. *September 23, Reuters* — **Lab accident caused new SARS case.** An investigation led by the World Health Organization (WHO) says the world's first Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) case in three months was the result of an accident at a government-run laboratory in Singapore that was researching the disease. The man, a 27-year-old Singaporean medical student, tested positive for SARS on September 9, initially baffling the government after the WHO declared the world's SARS outbreak over in July. **A panel of 11 experts from Singapore, the WHO, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that the man had caught SARS at a Singapore Environmental Health Institute lab where research on the virus is done and where the man had studied the West Nile virus.** Genome sequencing on the lab's strain of SARS coronavirus matched a sample from the researcher, the panel said in a report released by Singapore's health ministry on Tuesday. **It said bio-safety standards were below those necessary for handling infectious diseases such as SARS.**

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=topNews&storyID=3491910>

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Government Sector

17. *September 23, General Accounting Office* — **GAO-03-1083: Risks Facing Key Border and Transportation Program Need to Be Addressed.** The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) plans to establish a program to strengthen management of the pre-entry, entry, status, and exit of foreign nationals who travel to the United States. **GAO was asked to determine, among other things, whether the plan satisfies these conditions and to provide observations about the plan and DHS's management of the program. GAO is making a number of recommendations to the Secretary of DHS aimed at minimizing the risks facing US-VISIT,** including (1) establishing an executive body, composed of appropriate stakeholder representatives, to guide and direct the program, be held accountable for the program's progress and outcomes, and address key program issues and make associated decisions and (2) taking steps to establish an effective program management capability. DHS concurred with our recommendations and stated that it has made progress toward addressing them. Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d031083high.pdf>
Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-03-1083>
18. *September 23, WJZ TV (Baltimore)* — **Secretary of Homeland Security tours Maryland. Maryland Governor Bob Ehrlich took Secretary of Homeland Security Tom Ridge on a tour of flood ravaged homes in Maryland earlier today.** Senator Barbara Mikulski and a number of other state officials were also on hand as the governor showed Ridge homes either totally destroyed or heavily damaged by flooding in the aftermath of Hurricane Isabel. **Ehrlich also announced the opening of a regional Federal Emergency Management Agency office at the Back River Neck Community Center to help people in the community apply for disaster relief.** The federal agency is also establishing two other FEMA regional centers, one in Annapolis and another in Fells Point.
Source: http://wjz.com/localstories/local_story_266131032.html

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Emergency Services Sector

19. *September 23, Delaware News Journal* — **Delaware testing emergency phone system.** Starting today, state and local emergency management officials will be testing the state's new emergency telephone alert system, with about 5,000 people targeted for test calls. **Arthur Paul, a planner with the Delaware Emergency Management Agency, said the system will be tested today, Wednesday and Thursday. Paul said the prerecorded messages will tell people that this is a test of the system.** Development of the system was prompted by problems after the July 2001 collapse of a sulfuric acid storage tank at the Motiva Enterprises refinery near Delaware City. A slower "reverse-911" system was activated to alert 6,000 people who could have been affected by the spill and fire. After two hours, only 883 residents had received calls. **The new system will be able to send out up to 300 calls a minute to home and business phones warning of an emergency. The system can be activated for statewide or localized warnings.** Paul said the state also will continue using traditional methods of emergency notification, such as messages on TV and radio stations. Paul said, "We're only planning to use it in cases where there's an imminent threat to human life or health, or where there's a concern about large-scale property damage."
Source: http://www.delawareonline.com/newsjournal/local/2003/09/23de_ltestingemerg.html

20. *September 23, Local 6 News (Florida)* — **First responders in Seminole get smallpox vaccine.**

Emergency first responders in Seminole County will have one more line of defense against a possible bioterror attack as they receive smallpox vaccines Tuesday. **EMT and paramedics will get the voluntary vaccines for the next three days in the second part of Florida's three-phase program to prepare for a possible bioterrorism attack.** For the past few months, the Seminole County Health Department has provided information about small pox to all interested firefighters. **Officials also explained the benefits and possible side effects of getting the vaccinations.** The smallpox vaccine is risky because it is made with a live virus that can possibly infect the body and out of every one million people vaccinated its estimated that up to 50 people will face life-threatening complications.

Source: <http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?id=sectionId=46&id=19195>

21. *September 22, Reuters* — **U.S. guide highlights terrorism myths and facts. A public health guide was published this month by a group of hundreds of doctors and scientists to counter the surge in so-called terrorism protection products that grew out of the September 11, 2001, attacks on America.** Dr. Elizabeth Whelan, founder of the American Council on Science and Health, said people taking incorrect measures may well be the result of misinformation from vendors of various terrorism protection gear, the media and government. **Whelan said at a news briefing to introduce the New Yorker's Guide to Terrorism Preparedness and Response: Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear. Bioterrorism oversight expert Dr. Henry Miller of the Hoover Institution at Stanford University said unsophisticated means of attack still presented the greatest threat.** For example, the guide recommends that New York residents ask apartment building owners to restrict or prohibit public use of their underground parking garages for vehicles. Before and since the hijacked plane attacks two years ago which killed about 3,000 people, car and truck bombs have been favored by al Qaeda, the radical Islamist network blamed for the plane strikes.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A46311-2003Sep 22.html>

22. *September 20, Baynews9.com* — **Decontamination trailer rolls into Polk. Polk County, California, has a new weapon in its arsenal to combat terrorist attacks or hazardous chemical spills. It's a decontamination trailer. The 40-foot long vehicle has the ability to decontaminate about 50 victims of chemical exposure per hour.** It also offers victims something that wasn't available before — privacy. It has a chute to dispose of exposed clothing and a series of showers to remove chemicals. While it's designed to handle terrorist attack situations and chemical spills, the trailer can also be used at structure fires to help firefighters cool off and recuperate

Source: <http://www.baynews9.com/site/NewsStory.cfm?storyid=24877>

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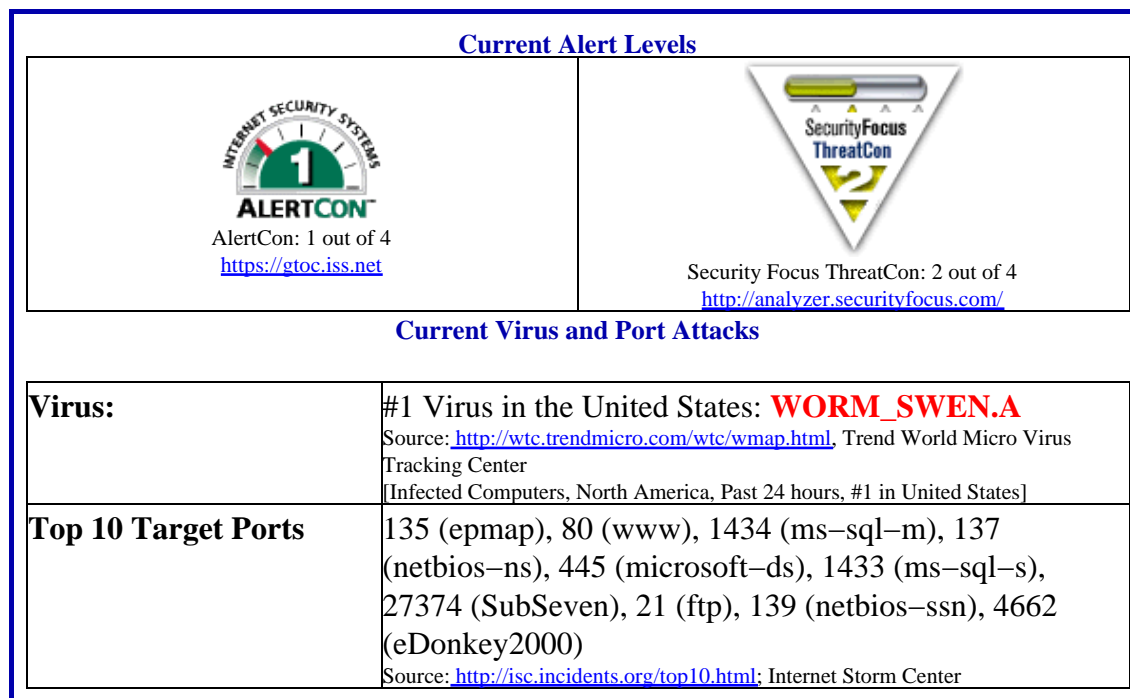
Information and Telecommunications Sector

23. *September 23, Associated Press* — **MTA upgrading its security system against computer hackers. The New York Metropolitan Transportation Authority said it would strengthen its defenses against computer viruses and theft now that officials have said its computer**

system could be attacked. The agency has already installed "Critical Tier I" computer firewalls at its headquarters. Documents say the firewalls will protect access to the MTA's network and its website. An "Intrusion Detection System" has also been placed in MTA computers and employees have been offered encryption software. An additional firewall and other virus protectors will be installed later. The agency is also expected to approve \$5.25 million in upgrades for the security of regional bridges and tunnel facilities.

Source: http://www.fox23news.com/news/regional/story.aspx?content_id=8C1FD34C-68FA-41C4-839B-4E0C3E86FDF4

Internet Alert Dashboard



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General Sector

24. *September 23, CNN* — **Air Force airman charged with espionage.** An Air Force enlisted man who was a translator at the U.S. Navy base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, has been charged with espionage and aiding the enemy, Pentagon officials told CNN on Tuesday. **Officials said Senior Airman Ahmad al Halabi was arrested July 23 because he allegedly had classified information about suspected al Qaeda detainees and facilities at the Guantanamo Bay base on his laptop computer. Al Halabi was charged with 11 counts of failing to obey a lawful general order or regulation, three counts of aiding the enemy, four counts of espionage, nine counts of making a false statement and five counts that include violations of the Federal Espionage Act. He is also being charged with a single count of bank fraud.** Al Halabi's home base was Travis Air Force Base in California, but he had served nine months at Guantanamo Bay as a translator between the detainees and investigators. His arrest occurred about six weeks before Army Islamic chaplain Capt. James Yee was taken into custody on similar suspicions.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2003/US/09/23/airforce.detainee/index.htm>

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